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General and complete disarmament: the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

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The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/50 of 2 December 2009, as well as all previous resolutions entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", including resolution 56/24 V of 24 December 2001,

Emphasizing the importance of the continued and full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[1]

Emphasizing also the importance of the continued and full implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument),[2]

Recalling the commitment of States to the Programme of Action as the main framework for measures within the activities of the international community to

[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

[2] A/60/88 and Corr.2, annex; see also decision 60/519.

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prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

Underlining the need for States to enhance their efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument,

Welcoming the early designation of New Zealand as the Chair of the 2011 open-ended meeting of governmental experts,

Welcoming also the efforts by Member States to submit, on a voluntary basis, national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action,

Stressing the importance of voluntary national reporting to follow-up on the Programme of Action, as a means of assessing overall implementation efforts, including implementation challenges and opportunities, and which could greatly facilitate the rendering of international cooperation and assistance to affected States,

Noting that tools developed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, including the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, and developed by Member States could be used to assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Taking into account the importance of regional approaches to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Noting with satisfaction regional and subregional efforts being undertaken in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and commending the progress that has already been made in this regard, including tackling both supply and demand factors that are relevant to addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

Welcoming the holding of such regional meetings in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and Peru,

Recognizing that illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons is a serious problem that the international community should address urgently,

Recognizing also the efforts undertaken by non-governmental organizations in the provision of assistance to States for the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Welcoming the coordinated efforts within the United Nations to implement the Programme of Action, including through developing the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, which forms an integrated clearing house for international cooperation and assistance for capacity-building in the area of small arms and light weapons,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, which includes an overview of the implementation of resolution 64/50,[3]

1. *Underlines* the fact that the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects requires concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and that their uncontrolled

[3] A/65/153.

spread in many regions of the world has a wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic consequences and poses a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels;

2. *Encourages* all initiatives, including those of the United Nations, other international organizations, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society, for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[1] and calls upon all Member States to contribute towards the continued implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels;

3. *Also encourages* States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 60/81 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons;[4]

4. *Endorses* the report adopted at the fourth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action, and encourages all States to implement, as appropriate, the measures highlighted in the section of the report entitled "The way forward";[5]

5. *Encourages* all efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including those highlighted in the report of the fourth biennial meeting of States;

6. *Decides* that, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 64/50, the open-ended meeting of governmental experts, convened to address key implementation challenges and opportunities relating to particular issues and themes, including international cooperation and assistance, shall be held in New York from 9 to 13 May 2011;

7. *Encourages* States to identify, in cooperation with the Chair-designate of the open-ended meeting of governmental experts, and well in advance of that meeting, key implementation challenges and opportunities relating to particular issues and themes, including international cooperation and assistance;

8. *Also encourages* States to, before the open-ended meeting of governmental experts and with the collaboration of the Chair-designate, develop pragmatic, action-oriented draft agendas for this meeting, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action;

9. *Further encourages* States to contribute relevant national expertise to the open-ended meeting of governmental experts;

10. *Stresses* the importance of the contribution of civil society to the implementation of the Programme of Action with regard to the preparation of the open-ended meeting of governmental experts;

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[4] See A/62/163 and Corr.1.

[5] See A/CONF.192/BMS/2010/3, para. 30.

11. *Encourages* States to submit, on a voluntary basis, national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action,[6] notes that States will submit national reports on their implementation of the International Tracing Instrument,[7] to the extent possible, by the end of 2011, and encourages those States in a position to do so to use the new reporting template prepared by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and to include therein information, as appropriate, on progress made in the implementation of the measures highlighted in the reports of the third and fourth biennial meetings of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action;

12. *Also encourages* States, on a voluntary basis, to make increasing use of their national reports as another tool for communicating assistance needs and information on the resources and mechanisms available to address such needs, and encourages States in a position to render such assistance to make use of these national reports;

13. *Further encourages* States, relevant international and regional organizations and civil society with the capacity to do so to cooperate with and assist other States, upon request, in the preparation of comprehensive reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action;

14. *Calls upon* all States to implement the International Tracing Instrument by, inter alia, including in their national reports the name and contact information of the national points of contact and information on national marking practices used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import, as applicable;

15. *Encourages* States to consider ways to enhance cooperation and assistance and to assess their effectiveness in order to ensure the implementation of the Programme of Action, including at the open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2011;

16. *Recognizes* the urgent need to maintain and enhance national controls to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

17. *Recalls* its decision to convene a conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action for a period of two weeks in New York in 2012;

18. *Decides* to convene a preparatory committee for the review conference for no longer than a total of five working days in New York in early 2012;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of the early designation of one Chair for both the preparatory committee and the review conference, and encourages the relevant regional group to nominate the Chair-designate by May 2011;

20. *Also recognizes* that, to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action, the 2012 review conference may consider recommending convening a further open-ended meeting of governmental experts;

21. *Encourages* States to consider the timely establishment of a voluntary sponsorship fund through which financial assistance could be provided, upon request, to States otherwise unable to participate in meetings on the Programme of

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[6] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. II, para. 33.

[7] See A/60/88 and Corr.2, annex, para. 36.

Action in order to increase the engagement of States in the Programme of Action process;

22. *Also encourages* interested States and relevant international and regional organizations in a position to do so to convene regional meetings to consider and advance the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as the International Tracing Instrument, in preparation for the meetings on the Programme of Action;

23. *Further encourages* States to make use, as appropriate, of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research clearing house for matching assistance needs with potential donors as additional tools to facilitate global action on small arms and light weapons;

24. *Emphasizes* the need to facilitate the implementation at the national level of the Programme of Action through the strengthening of national coordination agencies or bodies and institutional infrastructure;

25. *Also emphasizes* the fact that initiatives by the international community with respect to international cooperation and assistance remain essential and complementary to national implementation efforts, as well as to those at the regional and global levels;

26. *Recognizes* the necessity for interested States to develop effective coordination mechanisms, where they do not exist, in order to match the needs of States with existing resources to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action and to make international cooperation and assistance more effective;

27. *Encourages* States to consider, among other mechanisms, the coherent identification of needs, priorities, national plans and programmes that may require international cooperation and assistance from States and regional and international organizations in a position to do so;

28. *Also encourages* civil society and relevant organizations to strengthen their cooperation and work with States at the respective national and regional levels to achieve the implementation of the Programme of Action;

29. *Invites* Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the progress made on the implementation of the Programme of Action, 10 years following its adoption, and requests the Secretary-General to present a report containing that information as an input to the 2012 review conference;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".